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ABSTRACT

Bullying is a topic rarely talked about in a sustained, non-judgmental, and age-appropriate manner. The subject is also an under-studied phenomenon in the United States, in contrast with Britain, Norway, and Sweden. In the past, studies on bullying have focused on the pathology of the bully instead of on the whole school culture, or bullying has been regarded as an unfortunate stage that some children go through on their way to adolescence. This guide provides a framework for teachers and students to understand bullying, to identify the differences between bullying and teasing as well as the definition of sexual harassment, and to develop appropriate responses to such behaviors. The guide contains 11 sequential core lessons for fourth and fifth graders that are comprised of writing activities, reading assignments, class discussions, role plays, case studies, and homework assignments intended to encourage children to think about the distinctions between teasing and bullying. These activities help children focus on the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate, and playful and hurtful behavior. A list of resources and relevant organizations is included. (MOK)

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